

Director's Message

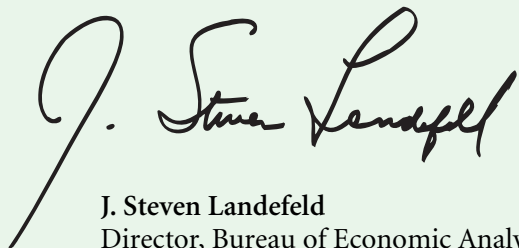
This month's SURVEY OF CURRENT BUSINESS presents the first of what we expect to become a series of BEA Briefings. These articles will concisely explain important aspects of our economic accounts in clear, nontechnical language. We welcome ideas about future topics.

This month's Briefing describes the model that the Bureau of Economic Analysis developed recently to "reconcile" the 2002 benchmark input-output (I-O) accounts with the 2002 annual industry accounts. Integrating our economic accounts has been a goal of ours for many years, to help us present a more consistent view of the economy. And harmonizing the 2002 benchmark and 2002 annual industry accounts was a solid step forward. We're also moving to integrate our statistics more closely with statistics from other Federal agencies.

Elsewhere in this issue, you'll find summaries of the most recent gross domestic product and government receipts and expenditures statistics in an easy-to-read format. We're planning to use the same format to present other recurring statistics soon.

As the new year approaches, I'd like to reiterate our goal of discussing the U.S. national account statistics in straightforward language and easy-to-read formats as well as in more technical presentations. In that spirit, we will roll out several improvements to the SURVEY, both the printed version and the online version, which is available at <www.bea.gov/scb/index.htm>.

As always, we welcome your comments and suggestions.



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